

**Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted**  
**Appomattox Regional Governor's School for Arts and Technology**  
**Friday, 8 December, 2000**  
**Petersburg, Virginia**

Membership Present:

Chair T. Douglas	Past Chair L. Rae	G. Hubbard	J. Marler
S. Keith	J. Towslee	A. Bowman	J. Burriss
S. Wadsworth	T. Wiseman	L. James	D. Rice
L. Solod	J. Jones	D. Shannon	C. Cottrell
J. Leslie	G. Dewire	K. Brunik	N. Brittle
S. Foddrell	R. V. Turner	B. McGonagill	

The meeting was called to order by VAC/GT Chair T. Douglas at 10:10 am.

Chair Douglas introduced Appomattox Regional Governor's School Director J. Baytops and President of the Appomattox Education Foundation B. Walker. J. Baytops commended VAC/GT for the work the committee does to support gifted education in Virginia. B. Walker spoke about the responsibility of reconstructing the full facility for the Appomattox Regional Governor's School and the way the community offered its support to the renovation effort. Even the contractors added special touches as they worked to complete the building on time. Also, exchange programs and visits by foreign delegations are being planned.

J. Baytops introduced five students who attend the school and added that the programs offer unique learning opportunities for arts students. One student publication, ASGARD, the literary magazine, has won several awards at the state level. Recruiting efforts for new students are expanding.

Chair Douglas thanked J. Baytops for arranging the student presentation and for securing the school as the committee's meeting site for the December meeting.

Chair Douglas asked new VAC/GT members to introduce themselves. The new members included C. Cottrell, S. Wadsworth, and N. Brittle. Two other members appointed by the Board of Education S. Winett and J. Crowther will join the committee in February.

J. Leslie moved for approval of previous VAC/GT minutes. G. Dewire seconded the motion. The motion carried.

VAC/GT Chair Douglas asked B. McGonagill to introduce the guest speaker, Dr. P. Haensly, who directed the MINDS ALIVE! Program for pre-schoolers and who has worked for early identification of giftedness in students. Dr. Haensly mentioned that the term "gifted" has been replaced with the term "highly capable". B. McGonagill thanked K. Tsengas for the fine preparation of materials, food, and directions for VAC/GT committee members.

G. Hubbard reviewed the three VAC/GT subcommittees:

Governor's School Committee...review outstanding work conducted by Governor's Schools and plan committee visits (meetings) at various Governor's Schools

SOQ,SOA, SOL Committee...review the ways gifted education melds with the standards of Virginia

Best Practices Committee...review the role of Best Practice Centers and T/TAC Centers in supporting gifted education. Each committee searches for ways to recommend the best directions for gifted education in Virginia.

Chair Douglas noted that the VAC/GT Nominating Committee would meet, today, to consider nomination of VAC/GT officers. Members of the VAC/GT Nominating Committee include L. Rae, J. Jones, and T. Wiseman.

New Business...DOE Report given by B. McGonagill.

\*due to the large number of VAC/GT committee members who will be joining the committee in the next years, B. McGonagill recommended that new members be invited to join the committee in two cycles for the sake of continuity...some would join in the 2001-2004 cycle, and some would join in the 2002-2005 cycle

\*names of VAC/GT nominees should be forwarded to B. McGonagill before being sent to DOE and the State Board for approval.

\*VAC/GT committee members should be board members of the organization or group they represent, so they may report VAC/GT information directly to their boards

\*next VAC/GT meeting is scheduled for 15 February, 2001, at Longwood College Lankford Hall, beginning at 10:00am...the primary purpose of the meeting will be to conduct VAC/GT committee work

\*each VAC/GT committee should work to prepare its information for rough draft presentation at the VAC/GT April meeting

\*VAC/GT will invite 5 (or so) coordinators of gifted education from the southern tier of Virginia to share their ideas/practices of melding the SOQ/SOA/SOL with gifted education

Chair Douglas called for subcommittee work to begin.

Chair Douglas called for committee work to continue through lunch.

Chair Douglas called for VAC/GT progress reports.

Governor's Schools Committee gave no report, but VAC/GT members were invited to tour the Appomattox Regional Governor's School.

Best Practices Committee reported as follows:

\*there must be help for school which do not meet accreditation so that these schools will be able to meet accreditation

\*information and guidance from T/TAC would be helpful

\*add gifted education to T/TAC's work for discussion and assistance

\*find outstanding at-risk pilot programs for students from birth to age 9

\*request information from local institutions which offer gifted education

courses...find suggestions for best practices

SOQ, SOA, SOL Committee reported as follows:

- \*part of the committee report will be based upon SOA teacher training
- \*recommend support of teachers to work for Gifted Endorsement
- \*work for early identification of all at-risk students
- \*report recommendations in specific language to reduce missed opportunities to identify students at an early age

Chair Douglas presented Dr. P. Haensly with a gift from the VAC/GT Committee. Dr. Haensly was invited to speak to the committee.

Dr. Haensly spoke briefly about the MINDS ALIVE! Program she had directed for very young students. The program was designed to address several educational areas which included:

- \*serving 3 and 4 year-old students who were advanced for their age
- \*finding 3 and 4 year-old students who needed extra educational challenge
- \*providing a portion of graduate endorsement in gifted education
- \*providing teacher training in identifying and working with young students.

The MINDS ALIVE! Program was set up as a four-week summer program in which teachers would teach two classes each day to classes of 4 to 5 students. Due to the design of the program, teachers had time to think about and discover deeper meanings associated with teaching young gifted students and learning with them as they prepared lessons and taught.

Student selection for the MINDS ALIVE! Program was dependent upon nomination from parents or from teachers in early educational programs, such as the Head Start Program. Student screening consisted of parents or teachers sharing information about the life of the student, including information about the student's creativity, intellectual ability, and age advancement. Also, students met, individually, with Dr. Haensly to talk and to take the Ravens Progressive Matrices. Follow-up meetings with parents were conducted, after the information had been gathered.

At the end of Dr. Haensly's remarks, the VAC/GT Committee moved to the auditorium to hear Dr. Haensly address about the MINDS ALIVE! Program. Teachers and administrators of gifted education programs from the area served by the Appomattox Regional Governor's School were invited to come to the afternoon session to hear Dr. Haensly speak.

Chair T. Douglas adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m. following Dr. Haensly's presentation.